

that we know too little about the genetical behavior of *Amelanchier*. Perhaps the problems involved are insoluble, but at least they deserve consideration. The members of the Rosaceae, including the Pomoideae, are noted for their sexual irregularities and other reproductive anomalies. Whether due to hybridism, peculiar chromosome distribution, polyploidy, or parthenogenesis, to combinations of these, or to other factors, the multiplicity of forms in *Amelanchier* (as also in *Crataegus*, *Malus*, *Rubus* and other genera), is so great as to defy taxonomy based on herbarium material alone. I think we shall not arrive at any very satisfactory scheme of classification of these genera until we know more about their genetical peculiarities. Studies of these will not be easy, for, in growing these long-lived woody species, mature fertile seedlings of known parentage are not quickly obtained, but experimental studies of seedling populations should without fail form the basis of any future attempts to reduce the species of the Pomoideae to a tangible system. The present monograph will serve as a morphological and geographical basis for future work on *Amelanchier*.—ROGERS McVAUGH, Plant Industry Station, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. G. L. Stebbins, Jr., Associate Professor of Genetics, University of California, Berkeley, is absent on sabbatical leave until January, 1947. During the autumn he will deliver the Jessup Lectures on Evolution at Columbia University. These lectures will be published subsequently in book form.

As a member of an expedition sent out under the auspices of the United States Commercial Corporation, Dr. F. Ray Fosberg is exploring for plants in Micronesia.

At the invitation of the Ministerio de Educacion Nacional de Colombia, T. Harper Goodspeed, Professor of Botany, University of California, Berkeley, left on July 4 to give a series of lectures at Bogotá and Medellín. He will return to Berkeley in time for the fall semester.

The following recent appointments have come to our attention: Daniel I. Axelrod as Assistant Professor of Geology, University of California, Los Angeles; Charles B. Heiser, Jr., as Instructor in Botany, University of California, Davis; John L. Morrison as Instructor in Botany, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse University, New York; Robert M. Muir as Instructor in Botany at Pomona College, Claremont, California.